Page 11, after the Table, replace "denotes comparative example." by – In each of Examples 2 and 4, the polymer has a T_p outside the preferred range of 40-50 °C, and gives poor results in HPIB at 25 °C. --

In the Claims

1. (Amended) A thickened oil composition comprising

(1) an oil, and

(2) dispersed in the oil, a polymer which

(a) has a crystalline melting point, T_p, and an onset of melting temperature, T_o, such that $T_p - T_o$ is less than $T_p^{0.7}$;

(b) is soluble in the oil at temperatures above T_p,

(c) has been dispersed in the oil by a process which comprises

(i) dissolving the polymer in the oil at a temperature above T_p, and

(ii) cooling the solution to crystallize the polymer in the oil, and

(d) has at least one of the following characteristics

(i) it is a side chain crystalline (SCC) polymer which contains repeating units containing at least one group selected from hydroxyalkyl groups; alkoxyalkyl groups [oxygen-containing groups , e.g. a hydroxyl group]; nitrogen-containing groups; fluorine-containing groups; and silicon-containing groups [, e.g.silyl groups];

(ii) it is a side chain crystalline (SCC) polymer which is substantially free of carboxylic groups, carboxylic groups in the form of salts, and sulfonic acid groups in the form of salts;

(iii) it is a side chain crystalline (SCC) polymer which contains carboxylic acid groups in an amount less than 0.075 meq/g;

(iv) it is a side chain crystalline (SCC) polymer which contains repeating units containing long chain alkyl groups containing at least 26 carbon atoms;

(v) it is a side chain crystalline (SCC) polymer which is substantially free of functional groups;

(vi) it is a side chain crystalline (SCC) polymer which is substantially free of ionizable groups;

(vii) it is a side chain crystalline (SCC) polymer which is a block copolymer or a graft copolymer;

(viii) it is a homopolymer;

(ix) it is a main chain crystalline polymer; and

(x) it is a homopolymer or copolymer of caprolactone;

the composition being at a temperature below T_p.

Please add the following new claims 5-17.

5. A composition according to Claim 1, wherein the polymer is a side chain crystalline (SCC) polymer which

(i) contains at least 80% by weight of repeating units containing a side chain comprising a linear polymethylene radical containing 10 to 50 carbon atoms or a linear perfluorinated polymethylene radical containing 6 to 50 carbon atoms, and

(ii) is substantially free of carboxylic groups, carboxylic groups in the form of salts, and sulfonic acid groups in the form of salts.

6. A composition according to Claim 5, wherein the SCC polymer contains at least 5% by weight of second repeating units which contain at least one radical selected from oxygen-containing groups, nitrogen-containing groups, fluorine-containing groups, and silicon-containing groups.

7. A composition according to Claim 6, wherein the second repeating units are derived from one or more of an N,N-dialkylamino acrylate, an N,N dialkylamino methacrylate, N-vinyl pyrrolidinone, an hydroxyalkyl acrylate, an hydroxyalkyl methacrylate, an alkoxyalkyl acrylate and an alkoxyalkyl methacrylate.

8. A composition according to Claim 5, wherein T_p is 40-50 °C.

9. A composition according to Claim 5, wherein the SCC polymer is substantially free of ionizable groups.

10. A composition according to Claim 5 wherein the SCC polymer is substantially free of functional groups.

11. A thickened oil composition comprising

(1) an oil, and

(3) dispersed in the oil, a side chain crystalline (SCC) polymer which

(a) has a crystalline melting point, T_p, of 20 to 80 °C, and an onset of melting temperature, T_o, such that T_p-T_o is less than 10 °C;

(b) is soluble in the oil at temperatures above T_p,

(c) has been dispersed in the oil by a process which comprises

(i) dissolving the polymer in the oil at a temperature above T_p, and

(ii) cooling the solution to crystallize the polymer in the oil,

(d) contains at least 80% by weight of repeating units containing a side chain comprising a linear polymethylene radical containing 10 to 50 carbon atoms or a linear perfluorinated polymethylene radical containing 6 to 50 carbon atoms, and

(e) is substantially free of carboxylic groups, carboxylic groups in the form of salts, and sulfonic acid groups in the form of salts;

the composition being at a temperature below Tp.